The long fuse: Misinformation and the 2020 election

WED, MARCH 3, 2021 • 3:00 PM ET

A conversation on the release of the Election Integrity Partnership's report, "The Long Fuse: Misinformation and the 2020 Election"

> **As the global community continues to grapple with the coronavirus (COVID-19), the Atlantic Council is open for business. Our business, meetings, and events, however, are occurring virtually. For more information, please read an update from our President and CEO.**

The long fuse: Misinformation and the 2020 election

Please join us on **Wednesday March 3, 2021** from **3:00-4:30 pm EST (12:00-1:30 PST)** for *The Long Fuse: Misinformation in the 2020 Election,* the public launch of a comprehensive report tracking mis- and disinformation in the 2020 election cycle. The report was produced by the **Election Integrity Partnership** (EIP), a coalition of research institutions that worked together to detect and mitigate viral misinformation and to support the real-time information exchange between the research community, election officials, government agencies, civil society organizations, and social media platforms.

The Partnership was set up to monitor false information about the process and results of the 2020 election, in line with the Department of Homeland Security's designation of elections as critical infrastructure in democracies. In particular, the EIP identified and traced the false "stolen election" narrative which would culminate in the 1/6 attack on the US Capitol.

The event will begin with a fireside chat with **Chris Krebs**, the former director of the Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), who led the effort to secure electoral infrastructure and the response to mis- and disinformation during the election period. The conversation will contextualize the role and findings of EIP within the government's efforts to prevent the spread of malign information. Mr. Krebs will share his lessons learned securing this election and will discuss how to build resilient electoral systems going forward.

Next, this event will feature a discussion with representatives from each of the EIP Partners: the **Stanford Internet Observatory**, **Graphika**, the **University of Washington's Center for an Informed Public**, and the Atlantic Council's **Digital**

Forensic Research Lab. Panelists will discuss the origins and amplification of voting-related misinformation, charting how these narratives evolved over time. The panel will also discuss the evolution of social media platforms' civic integrity policies and the effectiveness of their implementation. Finally, the panel will consider how the EIP can serve as a model for future mis- and disinformation monitoring efforts.

READ THE REPORT

Introductory remarks

Graham Brookie
Director
DFRLab

Alex Stamos
Director
Stanford Internet Observatory

Fireside Chat

Chris Krebs
Founding Partner
Krebs Stamos Group LLC

Moderated by

Isabella Garcia-Camargo
Project Manager
Election Integrity Partnership

Presentation featuring

Emerson Brooking
Resident Senior Fellow
DFRLab

Camille Francois
Chief Innovation Officer
Graphika

Renee DiResta
Research Manager
Stanford Internet Observatory

Kate Starbird
Associate Professor
Department of Human Centered Design and Engineering
University of Washington

Joe Bak-Coleman
Postdoctoral Scholar
Information School
University of Washington

Andrew Beers
Graduate Student
Human Centered Design & Engineering (HCDE)
University of Washington

Nicole Buckley
Research Analyst
School of Law
University of Washington

Alyssa Kann
Research Assistant
DFRLab

Ian Kennedy
Graduate Student
Sociology
University of Washington

Carly Miller
Research Analyst
Stanford Internet Observatory

Kyle Weiss
Research Analyst
Graphika

Moderated by

Alex Stamos
Director
Stanford Internet Observatory

The **Election Integrity Partnership** is a coalition of premier research teams focused on supporting real-time monitoring and information exchange between the research community, election officials, government agencies, civil society organizations, and social media platforms. The Partnership, made up of the Atlantic Council's **Digital Forensic Research Lab (DFRLab)**, the **Stanford Internet Observatory**, **Graphika**, and the **University of Washington Center for an Informed Public**, was created to detect and mitigate the impact of election and voting related misinformation.

The Election Integrity Partnership coalition

On Twitter? Follow @DFRLab and @AtlanticCouncil to join the conversation

AUDIO TRANSCRIPTION

Page 1

```
 1

 2

 3

 4

 5

 6                  AUDIO TRANSCRIPTION

 7          IN RE: STATE OF MISSOURI, ET AL.

 8                        VS.

 9            JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR., ET AL.

10                CASE NO. 322CV01213

11   EVENT: ATLANTIC COUNCIL: THE LONG FUSE: MISINFORMATION

12                AND THE 2020 ELECTION

13                   MARCH 3, 2021

14

15

16   (Due to the quality of the recorded media, portions

17   were unable to be transcribed and include inaudible

18   portions.  The transcript may also include

19   misinterpreted words and/or unidentified speakers.

20   The transcriber was not present at the time of the

21   recording; therefore, this transcript should not be

22   considered verbatim.)

23

24   TRANSCRIBED BY: MELISSA LANE

25
```

AUDIO TRANSCRIPTION

```
 1              (CLIP: 1:21:42-1:22-30)

 2              EMERSON BROOKING:  I think the EIP really

 3    helped push the envelope with things like just the

 4    notion that this pre -- this delegitimization of

 5    electoral processes that we were seeing in the summer

 6    and early fall that this should be against content

 7    moderation policies on these platforms, and

 8    begin to take proactive steps there, but I -- it was

 9    to me a bit disappointing that there was tons of this

10    misinformation that would continue to circulate,

11    because bottom line, these platforms are companies,

12    and they had to hedge their bets a little bit.  They

13    couldn't outlaw the speech of one competitor in a

14    political process, but after November 3rd, we saw that

15    market shift where content moderation actions that

16    were -- we could hardly contemplate a few weeks before

17    began to be taken.  There was a much stronger emphasis

18    on cracking down on the sort of content we've been

19    tracking from the beginning.

20              (Audio ended.)

21

22

23

24

25
```

AUDIO TRANSCRIPTION

```
 1                    CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

 2

 3            I, Melissa J. Lane, Certified Court

 4    Reporter of Missouri, Certified Shorthand Reporter of

 5    Illinois and Registered Professional Reporter, do

 6    hereby certify that I was asked to prepare a

 7    transcript of proceedings had in the above-mentioned

 8    case, which proceedings were held with no court

 9    reporter present utilizing an open microphone system

10    of preserving the record.

11            I further certify that the foregoing pages

12    constitute a true and accurate reproduction of the

13    proceedings as transcribed by me to the best of my

14    ability and may include inaudible sections or

15    misidentified speakers of said open microphone

16    recording.

17

18

19            Melissa J. Lane, CCR, CSR, RPR

20

21

22

23

24

25
```

AUDIO TRANSCRIPTION

A
ability 3:14
above-me... 3:7
accurate 3:12
actions 2:15
AL 1:7,9
and/or 1:19
asked 3:6
ATLANTIC 1:11
Audio 1:6 2:20

B
began 2:17
beginning 2:19
best 3:13
bets 2:12
BIDEN 1:9
bit 2:9,12
bottom 2:11
BROOKING 2:2

C
case 1:10 3:8
CCR 3:19
CERTIFICATE 3:1
Certified 3:3,4
certify 3:6 3:11
circulate 2:10
CLIP 2:1
companies 2:11
competitor 2:13
considered 1:22
constitute 3:12
contemplate 2:16

content 2:6 2:15,18
continue 2:10
COUNCIL 1:11
court 3:3,8
cracking 2:18
CSR 3:19

D
delegiti... 2:4
disappoi... 2:9
Due 1:16

E
early 2:6
EIP 2:2
ELECTION 1:12
electoral 2:5
EMERSON 2:2
emphasis 2:17
ended 2:20
envelope 2:3
ET 1:7,9
EVENT 1:11

F
fall 2:6
foregoing 3:11
further 3:11
FUSE 1:11

G

H
hedge 2:12
held 3:8
helped 2:3

I
Illinois 3:5
inaudible

1:17 3:14
include 1:17 1:18 3:14

J
J 3:3,19
JOSEPH 1:9
JR 1:9

K

L
Lane 1:24 3:3,19
line 2:11
little 2:12
LONG 1:11

M
MARCH 1:13
market 2:15
media 1:16
Melissa 1:24 3:3,19
microphone 3:9,15
misident... 3:15
misinfor... 1:11 2:10
misinter... 1:19
Missouri 1:7 3:4
moderation 2:7,15

N
notion 2:4
November 2:14

O
open 3:9,15
outlaw 2:13

P
pages 3:11
platforms 2:7,11

policies 2:7
political 2:14
portions 1:16,18
pre 2:4
prepare 3:6
present 1:20 3:9
preserving 3:10
proactive 2:8
proceedings 3:7,8,13
process 2:14
processes 2:5
Professi... 3:5
push 2:3

Q
quality 1:16

R
R 1:9
really 2:2
record 3:10
recorded 1:16
recording 1:21 3:16
Registered 3:5
reporter 3:1 3:4,4,5,9
reproduc... 3:12
RPR 3:19

S
saw 2:14
sections 3:14
seeing 2:5
shift 2:15
Shorthand 3:4

sort 2:18
speakers 1:19 3:15
speech 2:13
STATE 1:7
steps 2:8
stronger 2:17
summer 2:5
system 3:9

T
take 2:8
taken 2:17
things 2:3
think 2:2
time 1:20
tons 2:9
tracking 2:19
transcribed 1:17,24 3:13
transcriber 1:20
transcript 1:18,21 3:7
TRANSCRI... 1:6
true 3:12

U
unable 1:17
unidenti... 1:19
utilizing 3:9

V
verbatim 1:22
VS 1:8

W
we've 2:18
weeks 2:16
words 1:19

AUDIO TRANSCRIPTION

X
Y
Z
0
1
1:21:42-... 2:1
2
2020 1:12 **2021** 1:13
3
3 1:13 **322CV01213** 1:10 **3rd** 2:14